

Public Notice

Public Notice No. 03-14 Date: February 19, 2003

Application No. 200300150

Please address all comments to: Nashville District Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch 3701 Bell Road, Nashville, TN 37214 (Attn: Lisa Morris)

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY STATE OF TENNESSEE

SUBJECT: Proposed Deposit of Fill Material for Channel Relocation with Road Widening Project and Box Bridge Replacements [Knob Creek Road TDOT Project No. 02065-1403-94]

TO ALL CONCERNED: The application described below has been submitted for a Department of the Army (DA) Permit pursuant to **Section 404 of the Clean Water Act** (CWA) and a Section 26a permit from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Before a permit can be issued, certification must be provided by the state of Tennessee, Division of Water Pollution Control, Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), pursuant to Section 401(a)(1) of the CWA, that applicable water quality standards will not be violated. By copy of this notice, the applicant hereby applies for the required certification.

APPLICANT: Tennessee Department of Transportation Suite 900, James K. Polk Building Nashville, Tennessee 37243

LOCATION: Knob Creek Mile 1.0, Bedford County, TN. Knob Creek is a tributary of Garrison Fork at Mile 4.1, left bank, which is a tributary of the Duck River at Mile 239.5, right bank. USGS Map: Wartrace, TN (LAT: 35.5179, LONG: 86.2911). See location map, Sheet 1.

DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to replace box bridges in two locations along Knob Creek Road and realign a portion of Knob Creek in order to add wider lanes and shoulders on the road for public use. On the eastern bridge project (Knob Creek Road L.M. 1.45), the existing 50' of 2 @ 10'x4' concrete box bridge would be replaced with 60' of 2 @ 12'x7' precast box bridge. In order to accommodate the wider road, a 255-linear-foot open section of Knob Creek at the north of the bridge would be relocated slightly to the north into an open 263-linear-foot channel section. The new section of channel would mimic the existing channel and two alternating rows of trees would be planted on 15' centers with the first row planted on the slopes (on the north

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side). One or two rows of trees would be planted on the south side as space permits. The existing channel varies from 5' to 10' wide with varying 1:1 to 2:1 side slopes. The proposed channel would be 10' wide with 2:1 side slopes. In addition, a 187-linear-foot section of a small spring fed tributary to Knob Creek, not shown on the USGS map, that runs along the south of the existing road and enters the creek just south of this bridge project would be relocated slightly to the south. The relocated channel would be 189-linear-feet long and a couple of feet wide, like the existing. One row of trees would be planted along one bank of the relocated channel on 15' centers. At the western bridge project (Knob Creek Road L.M. 0.58), the existing 12' of 2 @ 11.5'x6.5' concrete bridge would be replaced with 48' of 2 @ 12'x7' precast box bridge. See Sheets 2 and 3 for plans of the proposed project. Detailed plans of the proposed work are available for review by contacting Lisa Morris at (615) 369-7504.

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the work, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the work will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, the evaluation of the impact of the activity on the public interest will include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, under authority of Section 404(b)(1) of the CWA. A permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

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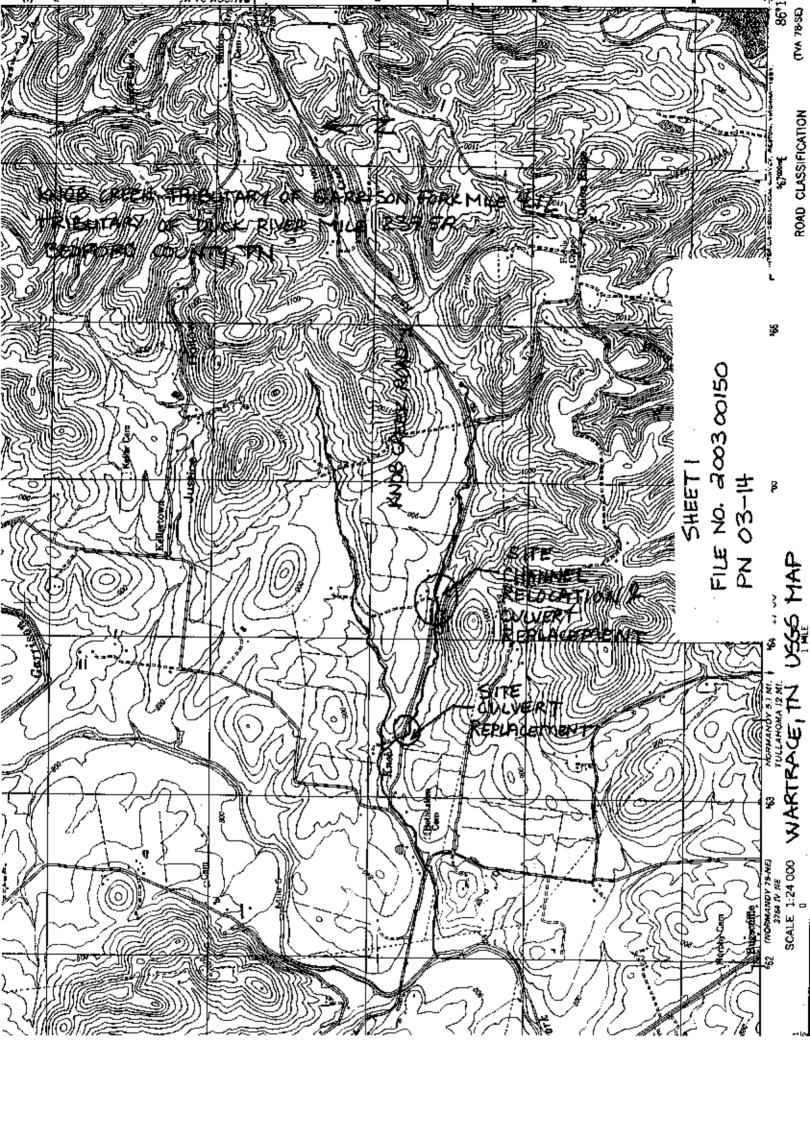
By letter to the applicant, dated April 19, 2000, the Federal Highway Administration stated that the project as proposed would not individually or cumulatively have any significant environmental impacts, which categorically excludes the proposal from environmental documentation under provisions of 23 CFR 771.117. Their review included surveys and reports on ecology, threatened and endangered species, a cultural resources survey, wetlands, water quality, property values, and other environmental considerations. An Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement could be required if extraordinary circumstances with substantial environmental effects are revealed during the public interest review, prior to a final decision concerning issuance or denial of the requested DA Permit.

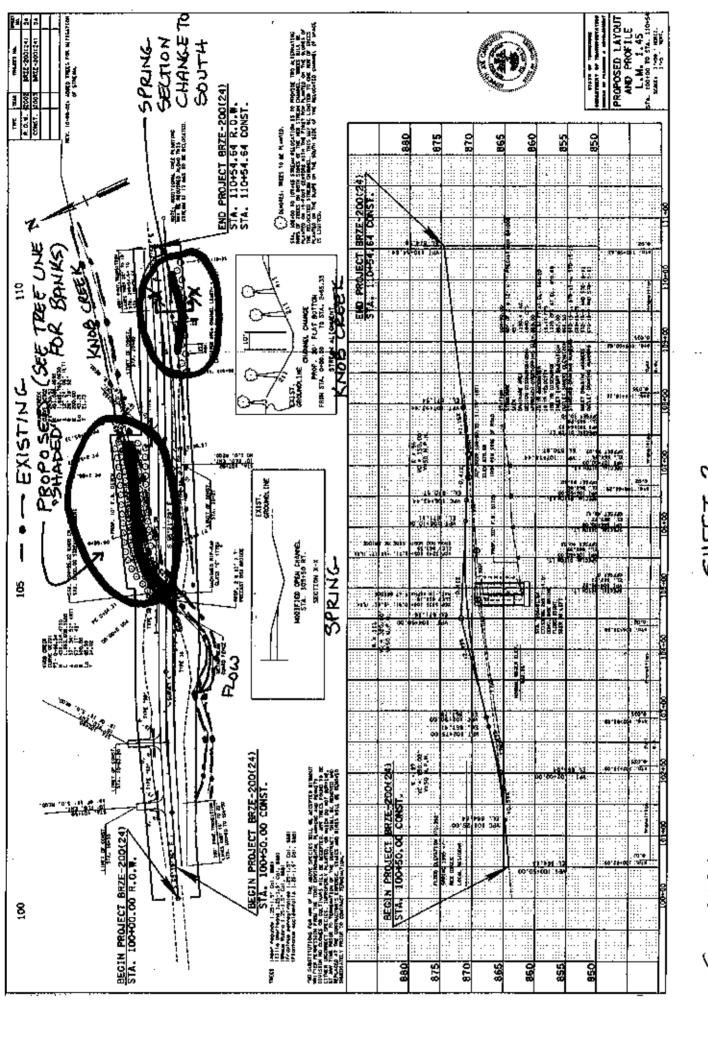
The Tennessee Historical Commission sent coordination letters for each location to the applicant dated January 25, and February 2, 2000, stating that the proposed work would have no effect on historic properties, architectural, or cultural resources eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in the area of potential effect. This review constitutes the full extent of cultural resources investigations unless comment to this notice is received documenting that significant sites or properties exist which may be affected by this work, or that adequately documents that a potential exists for the location of significant sites or properties within the permit area. Copies of this notice are being sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Cookeville, TN, sent a coordination letter to the applicant, covering both locations, dated October 8, 1999, indicating that based on available information, the proposed work will not destroy or endanger any federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats, as identified under the Endangered Species Act. Therefore, initiation of formal consultation procedures with USFWS is not planned at this time.

In addition to the DA permit, the TVA 26a permit, and the water quality certification, other federal, state, and/or local approvals may be required for the proposed work.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. Written statements received in this office on or before **March 21, 2003**, will become a part of the record and will be considered in the determination. Any response to this notice should be directed to the Regulatory Branch, Attention: Lisa R. Morris, at the above address, telephone (615) 369-7504. It is not necessary to comment separately to TVA or the state, as comments upon close of the comment period. However, if you wish to comment to TVA, contact Randy McCann at TVA, P.O. Box 1010, Muscle, Shoals, AL 35662. Comments to the state should be sent to Doug Ezell at TDEC, 6th Floor L&C Annex, 401 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37243.

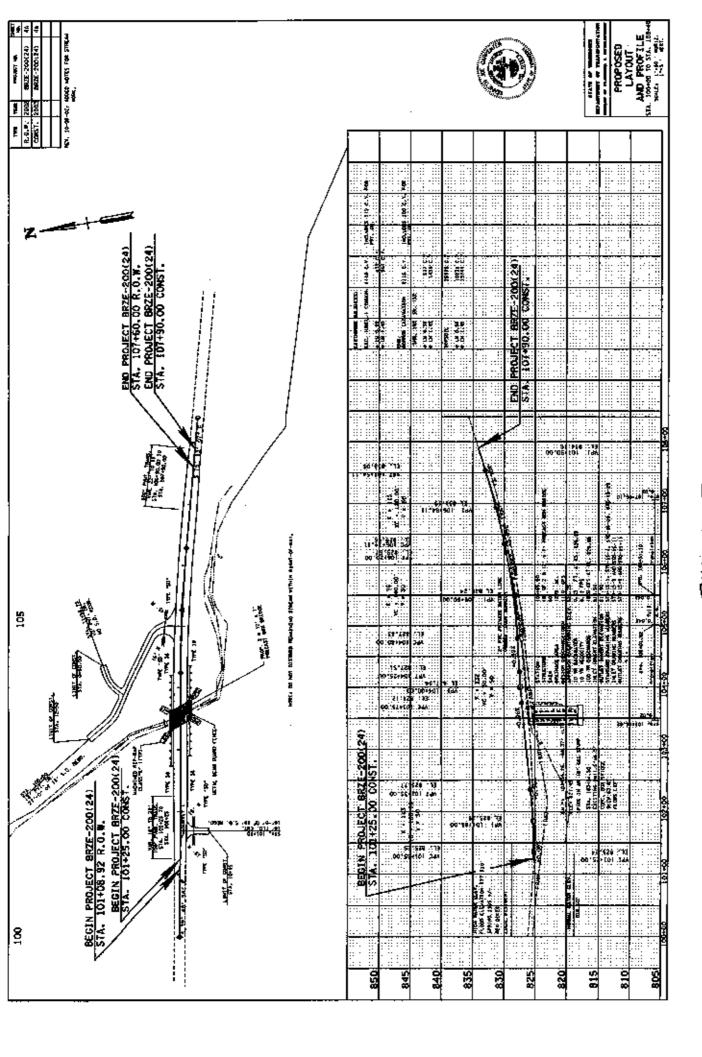




SHEET 4 SHEET 4 FOR MORE ON TREE PLANTING

SHEET 2 FILE NO. 2003-0150 PN 03-14

EASTERN BRIDGE PROJECT W/ CHANNEL RELOCATION ON KNOB CREEK & SPRING



SHEET 3 FILE NO. 200300150 FN 03-14 WESTERN BRIDGE REPLACEMENT

SHEET 4 FILE NO. 2003 00 150 PN 03-14

